ii. The loans have been granted on sufficient security. Government are waiting to see if the recovery could not be made without requiring the company to go into liquidation.

The supply and sale of two-pie Anchal Stamps.

Mr. K. T. MATHEW.

275. Will the Government be pleased to mention:—

(a) The cost of printing and getting two-pies Anchal stamps annually in the last three years;

(b) The amount realised by the Government in selling those stamps after paying the sale commission;

(c) The name of the firm from or through whom the stamps are received;

(d) Whether there is any agreement with that firm for supplying the Government with stamps for any definite period;

(e) The terms of agreement, if there is an agreement?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

(a) The stamps are generally got down to last for a period of 3 years or more, and payment is made after counting and bringing them to stock. The quantity required for a particular year is not, therefore, got down in the same year, and the quantity issued in the year will not generally be what was received in the year. The quantity brought to stock and the price paid for the last 3 years are shown below :—

Year.	*Quantity stocked.*	*Price paid.*
1098.	Nil	Nil
1099.	5,000 sheets.	Rs. 2,200
1100.	6,004 ,,	Rs. 2,641—12—2

(b)	*Quantity sold.*	*Amount realised.*
1098.	8,741 ½ sheets.	Rs. 4,152— 3—5
1099.	7,226 ½ ,,	Rs. 3,432— 9—5
1100.	3,974 ½ ,,	Rs. 1,887—14—5

(c) Messrs. John Dickinson & Co., Ltd., London.

(d) No.

(e) No answer is required.

The inadequate salary of the low-paid servants of the State.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

276. Will the Government be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the cost of living has increased enormously since the Great War?

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Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Yes. This has been a general phenomenon.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

277. Whether the scale of salary paid to the Government servants is almost the same as it was in the olden days?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

No. It has been improved from time to time, as a comparison of the budget statements of 1094 and 1101 will testify.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

278. (a) Whether the Government are aware that there is acute distress prevailing among the low-paid servants of the Government, i. e., among officers drawing a salary of Rs. 60 and below?

(b) Whether there have been petitions after petitions from those affected, praying for such increase in their salaries, as to make both ends meet? If so, whether a thorough enquiry was made about it, and necessary remedies provided for by the Government? If not, why?

(c) Whether it is not a fact that several Heads of Departments themselves have realised this almost destitute state of their subordinates under their employ, on account of scanty salary now paid by the Government, and strongly recommended to the Government for increase, and submitted schemes long ago for the same?

(d) If so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon, and if not, why?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

(a) Yes. Government are aware of a certain amount of distress among the menials and low-paid clerks.

(b) There have been occasional representations. The Government considered the question, and their conclusions are contained in the following extract from the D. P., C. No. 273/99, dated 10th December 1923 (*Land Revenue*).

"The question of introducing the time scale among clerks and menials of the Revenue Department equally with those of other departments is too wide a subject to be taken up for consideration for the present, and must lie over until the material prospects of the State are considerably improved."

(c) There have been representations.

(d) Vide answer to (b) above. Relief has, however, been afforded in certain cases.

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